

Virginia, to wit

VIRGINIA, *to wit*: IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FRIDAY, *the 20 th* NOVEMBER, 1788.

9 6 4

Resolved, That an application be made, in the name and on behalf of the Legislature of this Commonwealth, to the CONGRESS of the UNITED STATES, in the words following, to wit:

“ The GOOD PEOPLE of this COMMONWEALTH in CONVENTION ASSEMBLED having ratified the Constitution “ submitted to their consideration, this Legislature has, in conformity to that act, and the resolutions of the UNITED “ STATES in Congress assembled, to them transmitted, thought proper to make the arrangements that were necessary, for carrying “ it into effect—Having thus shewn themselves obedient to the voice of their constituents, all America will find, that so “ far as it depended on them, that PLAN of GOVERNMENT will be carried into immediate operation. But the sense “ of the PEOPLE of VIRGINIA would be but in part complied with, and but little regarded, if we went no farther. “ In the very moment of adoption, and coeval with the ratification of the new plan of government, the general “ voice of the Convention of this state, pointed to objects, no less interesting to the people we represent, and equally intitled “ to our?ttention. At the same time that from motives of affection to our sister states, the Convention yielded their assent to “ the ratification, they gave the most unequivocal proofs, that they dreaded its operation under the present form. In acceding “ to the government under this impression, painful must have been the prospect, had they not derived consolation from “ a full expectation, of its imperfections being speedily amended. In this resource therefore, they placed their confidence— “ a confidence, that will continue to support them, whilst they have reason to believe, they have not calculated upon it in vain. “ In making known to you, the objections of the people of this Commonwealth, to the new plan of government, we deem “ it unnecessary to enter into a particular detail of its defects, which they consider as involving all the great and unalienable “ rights of Freeman: For their sense on this subject, we refer you to the proceedings of their late Convention, and the sense of “ the House of Delegates, as expressed in their resolutions of the 30th day of October, 1788. We think proper however “ to declare, that in our opinion, as those objections were not founded in speculative theory but deduced from principles, “ which have been established, by the melancholy example of other nations in different ages—So they will never be removed, “ until the cause itself shall cease to exist. The sooner therefore the public apprehensions are quieted and the government “ is possessed of the confidence of the people, the more salutary will be its operations, and the longer its duration. “ The cause of amendments, we consider as a common cause, and since concessions have been made from political motives, “ which we conceive may endanger the republic; we trust that a commendable zeal will be shewn for obtaining those provisions, “ which experience has taught us, are necessary to secure from danger,

the unalienable rights of Human Nature. The anxiety " with which our Countrymen press for the accomplishment of this important end, will ill admit of delay, The " slow forms of Congressional discussion and recommendation, if indeed they should ever agree to any change, would we " fear be less certain of success. Happily for their wishes, the Constitution hath presented an alternative, by admitting the " submission to a Convention of the states. To this therefore we resort, as the source from whence they are to derive relief " from their present apprehensions. We do therefore, in behalf of our Constituents, in the most earnest and solemn manner, " make this application to Congress, that a Convention be immediately called, of deputies from the several states, with " full power to take into their consideration, the defects of this Constitution that have been suggested by the state Conventions, " and report such amendments thereto, as they shall find best suited to promote our common interests, and secure to " ourselves, and our latest posterity, the great and unalienable rights of Mankind."

Signed by Order and on Behalf of the General Assembly.

John Jones

?.H.D.

131526 109